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NEWS

Funds Established to Assist Flooded Farms

TARA HUGHES | STAFF WRITER

July 23, 2023 . 10:05 PM — 2 min read

By Tara Hughes

July 23, 2023. Customers at the Winchester Farmers Market may h noticed a missing vendor the last few weeks. Flats Mentor Farm suffered flooding during the recent heavy rain storms and won't be

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returning to Winchester any time soon. The non-profit behind the FMF program World Farmers' largest land site in Lancaster MA consisting of 70 acres farmed by 214 immigrant and refugee farmers is considered a total crop loss. The second largest land site consisting of 17 acres and farmed by 87 immigrant and refugee farmers (some of the same and some different) suffered a 65% crop loss in late spring/early summer flooding.

World Farmers and their farmers at Flats Mentor Farm (270 immigrant and refugee farmers) help increase access to healthy food for many food-marginalized communities in central and western Massachusetts. They also supply food to their own families and others through farmers markets and CSAs (including no-cost CSA shares to the most vulnerable families). Farmer Song Yang grows crops on one acre at Flats Mentor Farm and has been a vendor at Winchester Farmers Market since its opening in 2008 until the recent damage.

In an attempt to compensate these farmers for their losses a Farmer Flood Relief Fund has been established through GoFundMe. Funds raised during the campaign will be directed by the FMF Farmer Committee, a FMF farmer-led body, and 100% of the proceeds will go to the farmers.

In addition, Governor Healy announced on Thursday the backing of an effort to raise private donations to help flooded farms primarily in central and western Massachusetts. The administration and the United Way of Central Massachusetts launched a fundraiser, the Massachusetts Farm Resiliency Fund, that will provide grants to farmers to offset recovery costs. State officials will still pursue federal disaster relief funds, but those will be especially needed to repair bridges, dams and culvert damage. The administration described the fund as a "partnership between philanthropic organizations and private foundations" and said the fund would focus on recovery and making farms more resilient.

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To donate to the Farmer Flood Relief Fund to support farmers such as Song Yang go to: https://www.gofundme.com/f/FMF-flood-relief-2023

To donate to the Massachusetts Farm Resiliency Fund go to: https://www.classy.org/give/503065/#!/donation/checkout

Tara Hughes is the President of the Winchester News Group and a town meeting member.

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March 4, 2026

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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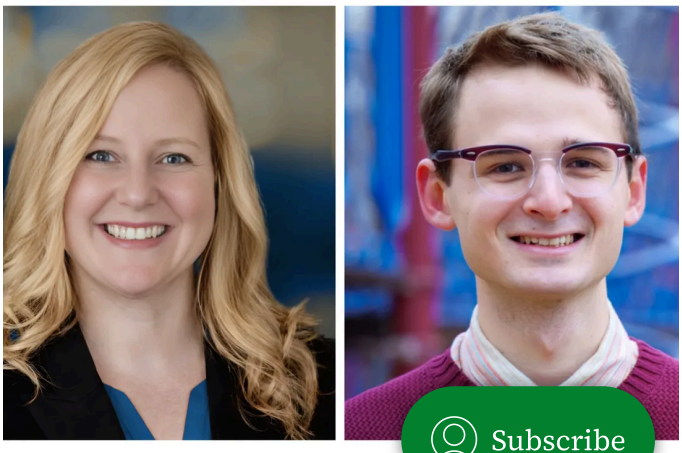

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Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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